

38. A method for producing a porous silica granule approximately spherical in shape, having a carbon concentration of less than 1 wt.-ppm, a pore volume of 0.5 cm³ or less per 1 gram of the granules, a mean diameter of pores of 50 nm or less, a specific surface area of 100 m²/g or less, and a bulk density of 0.7 g/cm³ or higher, comprising dispersing a fumed silica obtained by hydrolysis of a silicon compound into water to obtain a slurry, and drying.

39. The method according to claim 38, wherein the silica obtained by hydrolysis of a silicon compound is dispersed into pure water to obtain a slurry having a solid concentration of from 50 to 80 % by weight; further comprising the steps of controlling the pH value of the slurry to a range of from 1 to 4; and, while stirring, drying the slurry until the water content thereof is a maximum of about 20% by supplying a heated drying gas to obtain the porous silica granules.

40. A porous silica granule produced according to the method of claim 4, which is approximately spherical in shape, having a carbon concentration of less than 1 wt.-ppm, a pore volume of 0.5 cm³ or less per 1 gram of the granules, a mean diameter of pores of 50 nm or less, a specific surface area of 100 m²/g or less, and a bulk density of 0.7 g/cm³ or higher.